

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 531
By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to recognize James Harvey "Preacher" Shelton
on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, James Harvey "Preacher" Shelton is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for more than 36 years with Somerville Bank & Trust Company; and

WHEREAS, a native of Fayette County, Mr. Shelton is fondly known as "Preacher," a nickname he earned while playing the part of the Preacher in a Tom Thumb wedding in the first grade; and

WHEREAS, after completing his early education in the Fayette County School System, he studied for two years at the University of Tennessee, Martin, before achieving a Bachelor of Science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shelton fought with uncommon bravery during World War II to defend the freedoms of all peoples as a member of the Army Air Force; in so doing, he earned the gratitude of a thankful nation; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, he was elected as Fayette County Trustee, an office which he held with great honor and distinction for 14 exemplary years; and

WHEREAS, soon after, Mr. Shelton accepted a position with the Somerville Bank & Trust Company; this year, he will retire from that company after 36 years; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the bank has grown from an \$8 million to a \$175 million bank, and from 10 employees in 1966 to 52 employees in three branches today; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shelton has been instrumental in guiding the Somerville Bank & Trust Company to its present position as one of the financially strongest banks in the country; it recently ranked 16th out of 14,000 banks nationwide according to data gathered by the Federal Reserve Board; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Bank Administration Institute recently applauded the Somerville Bank & Trust Company on its financial performance, which once again placed it among the nation's best; and

WHEREAS, not content to leave his most important work in the office, Mr. Shelton is also a member of several professional organizations; he served on the Board of the Tennessee Bankers and stood as President of the Tennessee Bankers Association for two years; and

WHEREAS, he fulfills an active and important role in his community and his profession, participating in numerous civic organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, Little League Baseball, and the Lions Club; Mr. Shelton also lends his support to the community as a Mason and a Shriner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shelton also contributes his time and numerous talents to the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce which he was instrumental in organizing, and to the Boards of Directors of Agricenter International and State Tech; and

WHEREAS, he truly understands that cultural enhancement is beneficial to all and has enthusiastically supported programs and events for the betterment of his community; in addition, he has worked tirelessly toward the beautification and preservation of the historic Somerville Square; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shelton is praised by his neighbors as a country gentleman, dedicated to his community, family, and church, and as an outstanding, solid citizen who has ceaselessly toiled to make Fayette County a better place to live; and

WHEREAS, aside from his many professional accomplishments, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Betty, and their sons: Steve and his wife, Carol, and Joe and his wife, Dale; he has been further blessed with seven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shelton evinces his great faith as a member of the First United Methodist Church, serving as a Trustee, Church Treasurer, and as Chairman of the Board, among a host of other positions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shelton exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, he insists that his happy, successful career could not have been possible without the caring, loyal friends whom he holds in high esteem; he thanks them all with a grateful heart; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Preacher Shelton has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues, and should be duly recognized upon the occasion of his much-deserved retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to James Harvey "Preacher" Shelton our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.